

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



**Read** | **Write** | **Spell**

# 20 YEARS OF IMPACT

## A CONVERSATION WITH BECKY CLINGMAN

**Sara:** *What motivated you to start the Augustine Literacy Project® of Winston-Salem 20 years ago?*

Becky: As a teacher, I taught wherever my husband's job with the Army took us. I was always concerned about why some of my students, who seemed bright, had difficulty reading. I did a lot of research and began to learn about dyslexia.

I believed this was extremely important because so many students can't learn to read otherwise. It became a passion. When we discovered that one of our "very bright" sons had dyslexia it became even more important.

As my children grew older, I had been thinking about a volunteer project for several years, and the Chapel Hill Augustine Literacy Project® provided a catalyst for me to do something.

**Sara:** *What are you most proud of about the organization's accomplishments over the last 20 years?*



Sara Fox, Advisory Board Chair

Becky: Transforming the Augustine Literacy Project® into Read Write Spell, which allowed training for classroom teachers. It was a major step forward that helped teachers reach struggling students.

**Sara:** *How do our volunteers, board members, donors play a role in this accomplishment?*

Becky: We started Augustine Literacy Project® with five volunteers. If we weren't necessary and successful with our programs, we would not have been able to attract and keep such consistently loyal donors and tutors—and attract new ones.


**Sara:** *What is your greatest hope for Read Write Spell in 2022 and beyond?*

Becky: That it keeps going, and we begin reaching into pre-school.

(L to R) Trudy Winstead, Becky Clingman, and Susan Uphoff



Over **115,000**   
hours of one-to-one  
volunteer tutoring provided

 **330**  
teachers  
trained in educator  
academy, impacting over  
**3000**  
students 

**100%** reported an increase  
in knowledge of  
the structure of the  
English language

**97%** reported an increase  
in their confidence  
to teach a struggling  
reader

 **205**  
families  
served

# WHO ARE WE?

## WE BELIEVE THAT

Literacy is essential for success in the 21st century.

Literacy is crucial for individual success and a thriving and prosperous community.

Literacy is inextricably linked to equity.

All children should have access to research-based, structured literacy instruction.

Investing in a child's education is one of the most critical investments we can all make.

Our entire community must work together to close the opportunity gap in WS/FCS.



### Our Vision

**A transformed community where ALL children can Read, Write, and Spell.**

### Our Mission

**Read Write Spell advances the science of reading by teaching, training, and advocating.**

## READ WRITE SPELL IS COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND, INCLUSION

*Since 2020 we:*



Increased staff participation in trainings/workshops/events with a D, E, I focus.



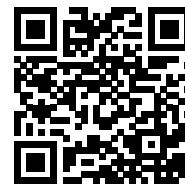
Partnered with organizations on community-wide D, E, I initiatives impacting WS/FCS and the broader Forsyth County community.



Created and implemented a community engagement and implicit bias workshop for our staff and tutors in collaboration with the Wake Forest University Office of Civic Engagement.



Developed a dismantling racism resource page for parents and community members on our website.



**Scan to see our resources for dismantling racism.**

# TOGETHER WE ARE CREATING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS



Esharan Monroe-Johnson,  
Executive Director

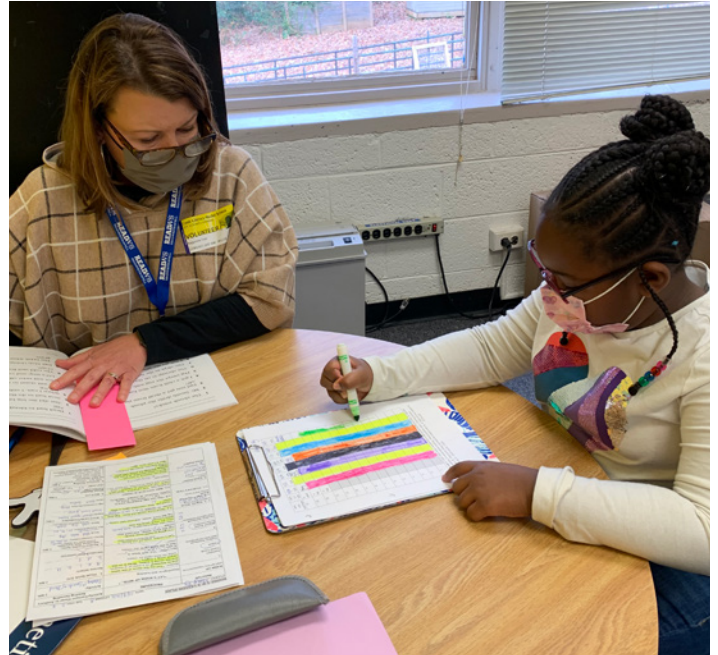
Twenty-twenty-one was a profoundly challenging year for our community, education system, children and families, and Read Write Spell. Unfortunately, for the first half of 2021, we could not work with students in schools, limiting our ability to reach all of our students. In addition, we could not provide any direct support to families. However, because of your investment in Read Write Spell, we could respond to the demands of a changing landscape.

You helped us serve students and educators when they needed us most. We tutored students in our office for the first time, allowing us to create a deeper connection with students and their families. We re-imagined our educator academy program and focused on providing financial support for district literacy leaders and coaches to receive crucial LETRS (Language, Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training. We also increased our staff capacity to meet the changing needs of our tutors and programs.

We expanded our volunteer tutoring program by partnering with Project Impact and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) to launch the Reading Warriors project. The Reading Warriors project aims to recruit and train an army of tutors to provide literacy support to kindergarten and first-grade struggling readers. I am happy to report that in 2021 we trained 60 1st grade Reading Warrior tutors.

Your support in 2021 allowed us to continue serving students, families, and educators and train more tutors in one year than

we have ever trained in one year before. As I reflect on 2021 and look forward to 2022, I am grateful for the commitment of our volunteers and supporters. I am thankful for the RWS staff who faced challenges with steadfastness and adapted to the new demands of expanding our volunteer tutoring program. I know that we are all united in our commitment to ensure that all children in this community can read and have a foundation for success. I know that we can get there if we continue to work together.



In 2022 we will build on the success of 2021 and learn from the challenges. This year's focus will be to create a strategic plan that will serve as a roadmap for our work over the next three years while allowing flexibility to pivot when necessary. In addition, we will continue to build our Augustine Literacy Project® tutor pool and

look for new and innovative ways to serve students, families, and educators.

Thank you for walking alongside us. Your support is crucial to our success. I hope you will continue to invest in Read Write Spell by signing up to volunteer as a tutor, making a financial contribution to support our work, or sharing our work with your networks.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Esharan Monroe-Johnson".

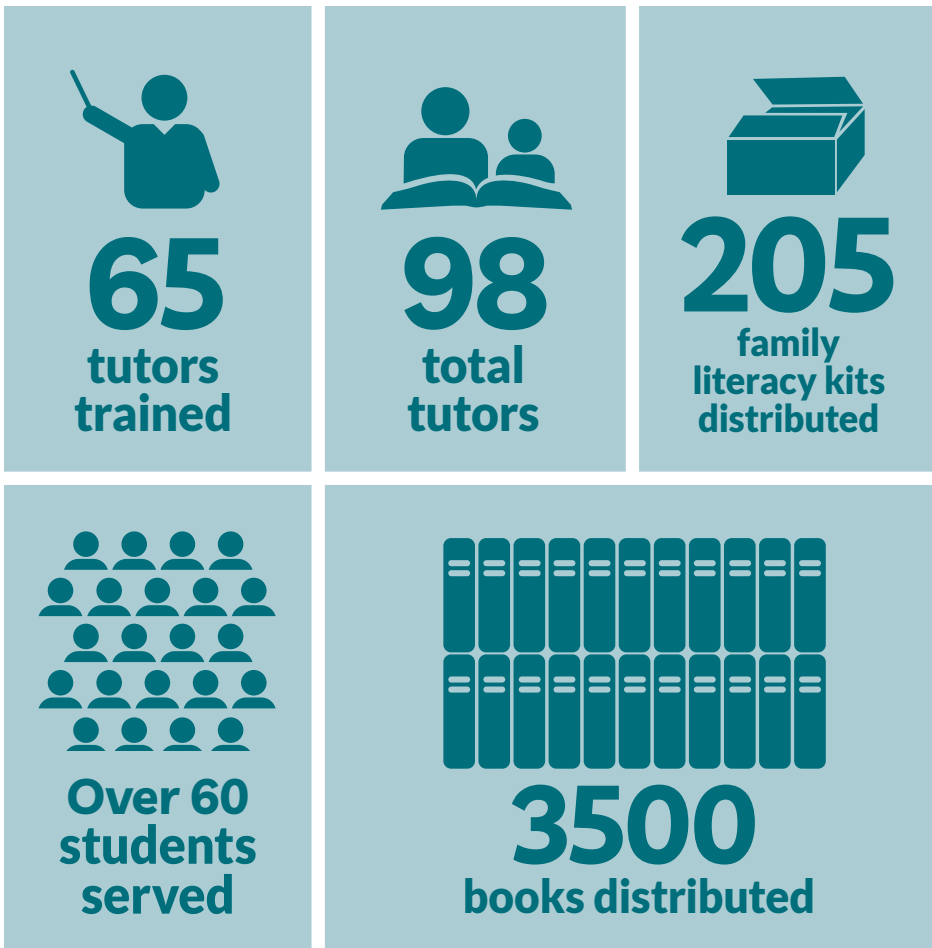
Esharan Monroe-Johnson  
Executive Director



# TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

In 2019, before the pandemic, 51.7% of third-grade students were proficient readers. In 2021, that number dropped to only **39.4% proficient**. Read Write Spell provides critical support to students who struggle with reading, which positions them for success in school and life.

## 2021 IMPACT:



## SCHOOLS SERVED:

### 2021-2022 ALP Schools

Bolton	Morgan
Cash	Old Town
Cook	Petree
Diggs-Latham	Sherwood Forest
Easton	South Fork
Gibson	Southwest
Griffith	Speas
Kernersville	Hanes Middle School
Kimmel Farm	WS/FCS Virtual Academy
Konnoak	
Moore	

### 2021-2022 Reading Warrior Schools

Ashley	Kernersville
Cook	Mineral Springs
Diggs-Latham	Moore
Easton	North Hills
Forest Park	Old Town
Gibson	Petree
Griffith	Smith Farm
Ibrahim	South Fork
Kimberley Park	Walkertown
Konnoak	

## OUR APPROACH WORKS:

- ✓ Extensive training
- ✓ Research-based curriculum rooted in the science of reading
- ✓ One-on-one instruction
- ✓ Ongoing support for tutors



# TOGETHER WE ARE GIVING THE GIFT OF READING

The last year has taught us that we are stronger together. Volunteering to help a child learn to read is one way you can support our community in recovering from the negative effects of the pandemic.

## A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

### Reading Warriors

In late 2021, Read Write Spell joined forces with Project Impact and WS/FCS to create the Reading Warriors Project. This collaborative effort is a call to the community to support WS/FCS in closing the achievement gap. Our goal is to build an army of tutors that work with students to help build a strong literacy foundation.



### Summer Enrichment

“Winston-Salem Freedom Schools invited Read Write Spell to participate in its Afternoon Enrichment time to provide additional, engaging, literacy-based opportunities for the Freedom School scholars. All participating sites reported that the scholars were very engaged during the Read Write Spell sessions and looked forward to their time with the volunteers. The collaboration between Read Write Spell and WS Freedom Schools strengthens a primary goal of each organization: to help children empower themselves through literacy.”

-Linda Winikoff, Old Town Freedom School Leader

*“Read Write Spell has been instrumental in helping to launch this program. I am grateful to have such a dedicated community partner.”*

*-Paula Wilkins,  
ED Project Impact*



## Augustine Literacy Project®

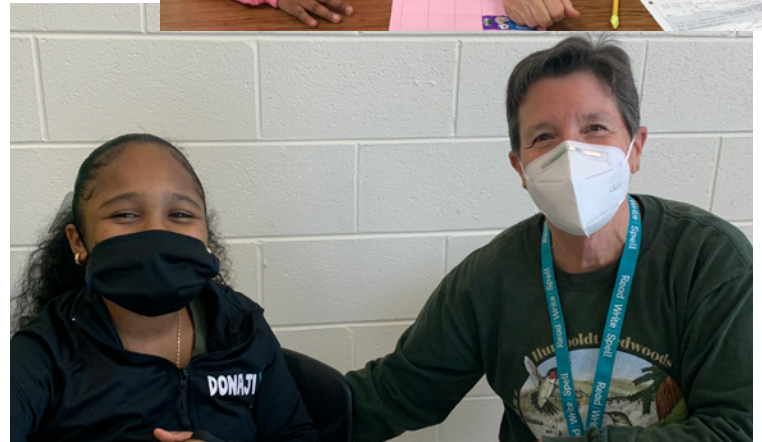
“Volunteering as a tutor at Read Write Spell is important to me because I am able to provide quality one-on-one assistance to struggling readers that makes a huge positive difference. Ever since I began working with Lisa as a first grader, it has been an extremely positive and rewarding experience. We had 2 years together with steady improvement in her reading ability before Covid shut everything down. It was a joyful day for both of us when I was finally able to resume tutoring this past November! We continue to work through the steps of the lessons, with much emphasis on building the confidence that she needs.”

–Kathy, Read Write Spell Volunteer since 2018



“Lisa has made significant progress this year! On the first quarter, fifth-grade reading check-in she scored a 38%, and on the second quarter check-in, she scored a 63%. I am very proud of her growth and Mrs. Kathy has helped so much in this process! Lisa and Mrs. Kathy have a relationship like no other. I think this relationship has helped Lisa feel more confident in her reading. The ALP tutoring program allowed Lisa to grow even more than I could have done myself. Having a tutor has allowed her one-on-one focused instruction in the areas she needs most. This has shown to be a crucial part of all of Lisa’s successes this year. I hope that other students can have this experience.”

– Ms. Swift, Lisa’s 5th Grade Teacher



***“This program has helped me a lot with reading and writing and it is also lots of fun. My favorite part of the lesson is when I get to read to Ms. Kathy or when Ms. Kathy reads to me.”***

***–Lisa, 5th Grade ALP student***

## Supporting Educators Creates Exponential Gains

Teachers are the key to student success. Investing in teacher knowledge is one of the most important ways to create a lasting impact and increase literacy rates in our community. Because of the generous contributions of our supporters, Read Write Spell provided funding for 17 district leaders and coaches to receive LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training. This training will allow them to support Pre-K-5th grade teachers in implementing the science of reading in their classrooms, impacting thousands of children.

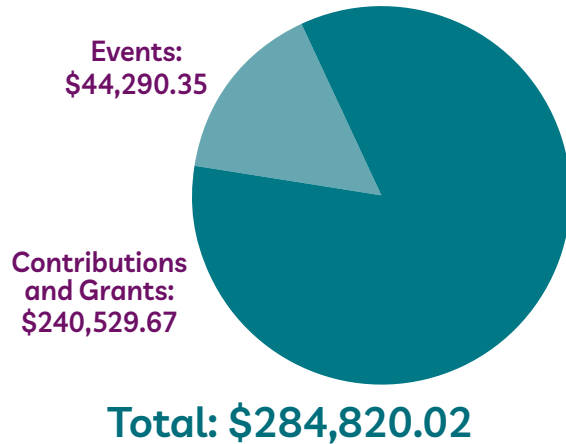
***“Being an active learner and participant in the LETRS course has allowed the district leaders to have firsthand knowledge and experience with the content before 1,400 teachers in our schools encounter the material... By being well into the course, district literacy leaders have had a great advantage in helping lead this important work.”***

***–Stephanie Ward, Elementary ELA Director WS/FCS***

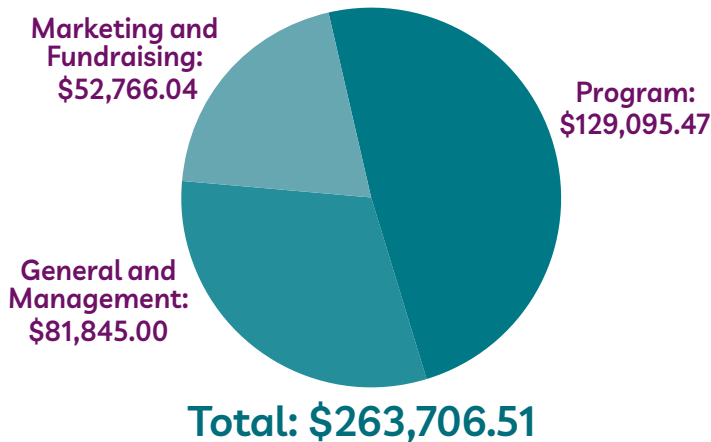
# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, Read Write Spell continues to provide critical support to students that need extra help with reading in WS/FCS, provide free resources for parents and educators, and advocate for all children to receive reading instruction based on the science of reading.

## REVENUE:



## EXPENSES:



## SPECIAL THANKS TO



Flow Subaru of Winston-Salem donated \$19,269.77 to Read Write Spell through the Subaru Share the Love Event.

*It was so wonderful to be able to partner with Read Write Spell for the 2020-2021 Flow Subaru Share the Love program! As a group, we really feel RWS is a more than worthy partner. The effect RWS has on the children and families of Winston Salem and the surrounding areas is immeasurable! RWS continues to have a great focus on providing expertly trained tutors and mentors to some of the most underserved portions of our community. Their outreach continues to prove pivotal in giving every child of our community a better opportunity to excel in the classroom and in life.*

- Alex Paschold, Executive Manager

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Thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, Read Write Spell continues to provide critical support to students that need extra help with reading in WS/FCS, provide free resources for parents and educators, and advocate for all children to receive reading instruction based on the science of reading.

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Susan and David Yount



*“This fall a new tutor called me after her first lesson, and with her voice full of emotion, she told me about the powerful experience of teaching her student to read. The work we do at Read Write Spell is meaningful. It’s important. It’s wonderful.”*

*Reading is a key not only to success but to joy. Giving all students access to the Science of Reading is also a tool for racial equity. I’ve found my passion and people through Read Write Spell. It’s gratifying to see how the program has evolved over the years, and to be part of it.”*

*- Kathleen Tatter  
Read Write Spell  
Volunteer and Donor*

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Fleet Feet Winston-Salem

Flow Companies, LLC  
Flow Subaru Winston-Salem  
Forsyth County Reading Association  
Grace, Tisdale & Clifton, PA  
ICON Builders  
Imperial Vault Company  
JT Stratford Investments  
Knollwood Baptist Church  
Lewisville Ward, Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Mediahub Winston-Salem  
Pinnacle Financial Partners  
Project Impact  
Reading Basecamp  
Salem Investment Counselors  
Salem Smiles Orthodontics  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
State Farm - Babusiak Insurance Agency

The Strickland Family Foundation  
Triad Woodcarvers Club  
Truist  
Twin City Kiwanis Club  
Wildfire  
Williams Development Group  
Woman's Reading Club of Winston-Salem  
Wood and Hogan Consulting

# Read | Write | Spell

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# Get Involved

- Volunteer to tutor a child that needs one-on-one reading support. Visit [www.readws.org/becomeatutor](http://www.readws.org/becomeatutor) to learn more.
- Donate to Read Write Spell by visiting [www.readws.org/donate](http://www.readws.org/donate).
- Use your voice to amplify our work. Share our most recent community update with your friends and family.

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out more.

